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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

To Christmas Shoppers.

Please buy your presents early,
Early in the day and early in December.

That will be your biggest gift of
the holidays—to the workers behind
the counters and on the delivery
wagons.

Cortelyou's Appointment.

Even so great and popular a person
as President Roosevelt may well remember
that it is not wise or expedient to
disregard the moral instincts of the people
at large. No one desires President
Roosevelt to administer the country by
and with the consent, approval and un-
qualified commendation of every voter,
nor can the President be expected to
take in his Cabinet members who are
distrustful to himself. On the other hand,
the President should well consider the
danger of raising to the high and responsible
position of Secretary of the Treasury a man
whose previous actions have been open to grave criticism. If
George B. Cortelyou had done nothing
more than raise a large sum of money
for the Republican campaign fund at the
time it was the Commissioner of Com-
merce and Labor, when he in his official
capacity, had access to a great deal of
information that theretofore had been
carefully guarded by the large corporations,
he would naturally be obnoxious to
that part of our people who believe
and feel that political power and cor-
porate influence should be kept as far
separated as possible. It is remembered
of course, that Mr. Cortelyou disclaims
any use of his knowledge as to the
private affairs of the corporations from
whom he has sought contributions. This
is not the question. The fact that he
asked and received any gratuities for
campaign purposes is sufficient to cast
serious discredit upon him. Not contented
with this exploit, Mr. Cortelyou, as chair-
man of the Republican National Committee,
collected and disbursed a great sum
of money from trusts, corporations, banks
and insurance companies, and still has
in his campaign chest \$400,000, and still
refuses to return to the three big insurance
companies of New York \$100,000, which
was contributed by their presidents
for the election of Mr. Roosevelt. In
doing, therefore, whether President
Roosevelt should have the right to force
his own choice of the people, whether
his wisdom appears justified or not, it is
well to recall the provision of the United
States Constitution applicable to such
matters.

The act of September 2, 1860, creating the United States Treasury Department, provided that "it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to direct and prepare plans for the improvement and management of the revenue and for the support of public credit." It further provided that no person appointed Secretary of the Treasury should "directly or indirectly be concerned or interested in carrying on the business of trade or commerce."

The New York World, commenting on this, says that, when President Grant appointed A. T. Stewart to be Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Stewart offered to trust to his business during his term of office and give all the profits to charity, but Congress refused to amend the law of 1860, and Grant was obliged to withdraw the nomination.

The powers of the Secretary of the Treasury, whether constitutional or not, have been enormously enlarged in the last few years. To-day the whole stock market, and, through the stock market, the financial interests of America, wait with hungry expectation for Secretary Shaw to relieve the financial strain brought about by our unnatural banking system. The opportunity for fraud and chicanery in such power is obvious and great.

By designating the banks which shall be favored depositories, the secretary can confer large profits upon a chosen beneficiary. He can add value to various bonds by accepting them as security. He can raise or lower the value of stocks at large by granting or withholding government deposits. He can give out price information, and it is alleged that the National City Bank has received such information, to the great regret of the favored institution.

It is also to be remarked, that Mr. Shaw is asking greater privileges for the Secretary of the Treasury. Without discussing the proprieties of these decisions, or the remedy for them, it may well be asked whether George B. Cortelyou is the sort of person to whom the American people at large would care to entrust such wide and extraordinary powers. Though the report from Washington express the general feeling that the President has made a grave mistake, a number of Senators insist that it would be "discourteous and unwarrented to interfere." In this connection, the New York World says:

"The selection of Cabinet ministers is no more personal than the selection of am-

bassadors, ministers and consuls, or justices of the Supreme Court, or any other appointed officers. The Constitution makes no distinction. The Senate has repeatedly interfered with the President's selections, and the clause by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, confers upon that body full power to reject any nomination the President may make. The Senate refused daily to confirm two important nominations to the Supreme bench. It rejected the confirmation of Cleveland's nominations. The cases of Williams and Cushing, of Hornblower and Peckham, do not differ from that of Cortelyou in relation to the Senate's right to interfere. Andrew Johnson never questioned the Senate's right to prevent the removal of Cabinet officers without its consent, and Johnson was impeached for his audacity."

It is to be hoped that the President will see the just attitude of public opinion on this matter and reconsider his appointment before it is too late. If not, the Senate should exercise its powers and duties by withholding the necessary confirmation.

War or Commerce?

In his address before the National Rivers and Harbors Association Congressman Burton said:

"We have been spending \$20,000,000 on rivers and harbors as against \$100,000,000 on our navy."

"I believe that should be changed, for I think it is of more importance that lighthouses be constructed and river and harbor improvements made than that more battleships and bristling bayonets should be provided."

This feeling will awaken a response in the heart of many a citizen who sees around him how trade and commerce produce better understanding, more sympathy and more business between the nations. Hence comes the natural desire that every effort be made to develop and increase the means for inter-communication of ideas and exchange of products. No one can estimate to the full the part played by railroad transportation in the development of our country, but in the building of our railroads and the extension of these lines we should never forget that it was the sea that first brought European settlers to America. The sea has ever been the chief handmaiden of civilization. It was the sea that carried civilization to England; it was the sea that spread that civilization of Ionia, and it was the sea that made Carthage. No people have more interest in the development of ocean-borne commerce than the Americans. Walked in, as we are, by our high tariff, subsisting on our own products and exporting our surplus in foreign bottoms to foreign lands, we have overlooked the possibilities for the great wealth and development that await this country when we remove the unnatural obstructions to our foreign trade and allow our own citizens to earn for themselves the sums now being paid to others for transporting our goods. In days of smaller ships Richmond, for example, was a great port. In volume of trade, Richmond has greatly increased, but has lost somewhat in the diversity of the articles it handles. If the James River were open for boats of twenty-foot draught, Richmond could very readily recover a large part of the present trade with the West Indies, and should certainly profit largely from the Oriental trade that will naturally follow the opening of the Panama Canal. What is true of Richmond will be true in like manner in which the cities of the West Indies will quickly become a national focus. And Booker Washington can put that in his pipe and smoke it.

The New York World has an article on "Ex-Presidents as Senators." It is our hope that some kind friend thought to him a marked copy of the issue to the Hon. Estrada Palma.

Mr. Roosevelt, at the head of a squadron of young men, engaged in forcing racial co-operation on San Francisco, would make a striking subject for the Kinematograph follows.

Still, there was probably no other way in which those negro soldiers could have quickly become a national focus. And Booker Washington can put that in his pipe and smoke it.

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